

# Principal's Newsletter

Amesbury High School  
Elizabeth McAndrews, Principal

Volume 1 Issue 1  
August, 2016

## Core Values on Learning – “IRRAP”

**I**NTEGRITY – **R**ESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALITY – **R**ESPONSIBILITY – **A**CADEMIC EXCELLENCE – **P**ROBLEM SOLVING

## Amesbury High School Beliefs on Learning

Amesbury High School is committed to inspiring all its students to become problem solvers who take responsibility for themselves and their learning. Encouraging this journey toward excellence, the AHS community works together to model integrity, acceptance, collaboration, and respect. School pride permeates the culture of AHS through time tested traditions blended with student-driven innovations and initiatives.

## Welcome Back Open House

The Welcome Back Open House will be held the evening of Tuesday, August 30th from 6:30 - 8:30pm. Please review the schedule below as we have made changes. Schedules will be available for freshmen and new students at 6:15pm in the lobby. All other students can pick up their schedules beginning at 6:45 pm. All students and parents will be attending a shortened schedule of classes where they will have the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and receive course expectations. This evening enables our students and parents to become immediately aware of long range assignments and teacher expectations. I feel it is one of the most important evenings of the entire school year. Please make every effort to attend.

### OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, August 30th

6:30-8:30 pm

6:15-6:30	Schedule pickup for freshmen and new students (main lobby)
6:30-6:55	Freshmen students, new students, and parents report to auditorium
6:45-7:00	Schedule pickup for returning grades 10-12 students (main lobby)
7:00-7:15	Block 1
7:20-7:35	Block 2
7:40-7:55	Block 3
8:00-8:15	Block 4
8:20-8:30	Band/Chorus

Student Council will be sponsoring an activities fair from 6-7pm in the cafeteria on the night of Open House, August 30th. We encourage all students and parents to attend the fair and see the variety of co-curricular activities that AHS offers.

## New This Year

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Follow Amesbury High School Principal, Elizabeth McAndrews on Instagram (ahsprincipalmcandrews) and Twitter (@AHSMcAndrews).

## Summer Reading

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I would like to remind all students about their summer reading assignments. All students are expected to choose one book from the faculty favorites list to read. There are additional varied requirements for each grade level and honors students. Some students will be expected to read more than one book and will be assessed at the start of the year to be included as part of the first quarter grade in English. The recommended summer reading list was given to all students. Please review the list and requirements on our website at [schools.amesburyma.gov](http://schools.amesburyma.gov). For all the details, just click on the Amesbury Public Schools and go to the Amesbury High School website and click on AHS Summer Reading.

**In addition to the summer reading expectations there are always some frequently asked questions especially for new students and families:**

***What should we be doing to prepare for the coming school year?*** Most questions and concerns can be answered by going to the school website and following various links. For example, forms for user fees, copies of letters to parents, the calendar of events, contact information, and much more relevant information can be found there.

***Can students have cell phones, lap tops, and/or tablets in school?*** Yes. With the growing use of technology in the classroom, many of these devices have become tools for learning. Amesbury Public Schools has a proper use of technology policy which all students and staff are expected to follow. Cell phone use, including the use of social media, has become a significant distraction in the classroom. It is inappropriate to use these devices for personal communication during the school day. If you need to get an emergency message to your student, please contact our main office. More information is contained in our student handbook. Students who continually violate this provision will be sanctioned from using school and personal devices in school. Amesbury Public Schools is working to increase the technological infrastructure in the schools. Currently, the infrastructure cannot support personal wireless connections for students.

***Do parents get a copy of the student handbook?*** All students are issued student handbooks on the first day of school in our advisory home base period. Students will review the handbooks with their advisory teachers. Parents may view a copy of the student handbook on our website. Students and parents are asked to sign that they have received and read a copy.

***Can students leave the high school campus for lunch?*** The only students who have this privilege are students who are in the National Honor Society. Once students arrive on campus, they cannot leave without permission from the front office and dismissal from parents.

***What is the A-Block period?*** This period runs from 7:30 to 7:57 and is used as an extra help period. Students may go to any of their teachers for extra help, tutoring or make-up work during this period. They should make arrangements with teachers ahead of time, as teachers may have meetings that they need to attend. This year we will be setting a schedule for teachers to meet and collaborate on a regular

basis. Any students not receiving assistance from a teacher should report to the cafeteria. Band and Chorus students report to school at 7:20 and have Band or Chorus from 7:20 to 7:57.

***What time does school start and what time is it dismissed?*** Students in grades 9-12 who are not in the music program and who do not need extra help with our teachers may start school at 8:00. Students in grades 9-12 who take the buses must enter the high school upon arrival. Students who are in the music program will report at 7:20. Included with this newsletter are copies of our daily schedule as well as a delayed opening schedule. **When our school is delayed due to weather or other factors, please note that the beginning time is 9:30.**

***When will all students receive their schedules?*** Schedules will be distributed at Open House on Tuesday, August 30th at 6:30pm. Please see above schedule to determine the appropriate time for your student to pick up his or her schedule. All students pre-registered for their classes last spring. If your student is new to Amesbury and did not pre-register for classes, please call our guidance department at 978-388-4800. If you are unsure whether your student pre-registered for classes, please call our guidance department as soon as possible.

***Where is the handicapped entrance for the high school?*** The front entrance to the high school is handicapped accessible. Handicapped access also exists in the rear of the building at the gym entrance.

***Has the traffic pattern in the parking lot changed?*** The traffic pattern has stayed the same. Please drop off your students at the front of the building. The buses will pick up and drop off students in the rear of the building from 7:00 – 7:30am and from 2:00 – 2:30pm. If you are picking up your student at the end of the day, please park in the side parking lot.

***Where do parents go to pickup students at the high school?*** Parents may park in an open space in the side lot to wait for school to end. Please use extreme caution in our lot since students may be walking between cars. Remember, the curb in front of the high school is for handicapped access and is also a fire/emergency zone. No parking is allowed along the yellow curb. Cars may park along the driveway before the parking lot entrance as long as it does not interfere with traffic. Please no stopping and blocking access, especially for the handicap busses. **It is also state law that no vehicle should be kept idling for more than 5 minutes. Please shut off your cars while waiting for school to be dismissed.**

***Will student parking be available?*** Parking is available and students are expected to register their vehicles in the main office. Parking becomes especially challenging during the winter months. I continue to urge students to carpool whenever possible. Parking registration will begin the first week of school.

***When is the second open house this year?*** **The second open house will be on Thursday, October 13th from 6:30 – 8:30pm.** Parents and guardians will have the option to sign up for 5 minute individual conferences with their child's teachers. Additional information regarding conference signups will be forthcoming.

***Are Ipods, MP3 players and other musical playing devices as well as electronic game devices allowed?*** The only times when students can listen to music or play games is during our lunch periods (in the cafeteria), before school and after school.

***How much do sports cost this year?*** There have been no changes from last year. The cost is \$285 per sport with a family maximum of \$900. All sports fees must be received prior to the start of practices.

*Is there also a charge for clubs and activities?* Yes, the cost is \$50 and this is a one-time fee for the school year.

*Does the school offer physicals this year?* No, the school no longer provides for physicals. CVS on Macy Street does have a clinic where you may get a physical for \$49 until September 11<sup>th</sup> after the 11<sup>th</sup> cost will increase to \$59. Walk-ins are welcome. The hours are 8 AM to 7 PM Monday - Friday, Saturday 9 AM to 5:30 PM and 10 AM to 5:30 PM on Sunday. You need to bring a copy of immunizations. The phone number is 978-834-0300. You may have your primary care complete a physical as well and provide the school/ athletic department with documentation. Remember, physicals are required for participation in sports. Also remember that there must be verification of parents and students having taken the concussion education course before any student will be allowed to participate. Any questions may be directed to Deb Lavenson at AHS.

*When do athletics start?* This year Football will start August 19th and all other sports will start August 25th.

### **Parental Involvement**

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High School continues to change on a yearly basis. Students are exposed to much more information. We must consistently work together to make a difference. You will hear stories and versions of events that happen at the high school through your children and others in our community. Please remember that there are always two sides to every story and do not hesitate to contact us if you need clarification.

Your cooperation and assistance in monitoring that your son/daughter dresses appropriately along with setting limits on absences, dismissals and tardies will be helpful. We do not accept telephone dismissals and prefer written documentation. When writing notes for absences, dismissals and tardies please include a telephone number for verification. This will ensure that all notes are authentic.

There are several opportunities to become more involved at the high school.

- 1) There are several sport specific booster groups and a general sports booster group that support our athletic programs. If you want to become a member of these organizations contact your child's coach or our athletic department for more information. The All Sports Boosters Groups maintains a webpage on the school website.
- 2) **Principal's Coffee - Students, parents, and community members are invited to spend some time with AHS Principal, Elizabeth McAndrews.** The first Principal's Coffee will take place on Thursday, September 15th at 6:00pm in the Principal's Office. This is an opportunity for all stakeholders to ask questions, share concerns, or simply to chat with the principal. Please consider joining us to add another dimension of communication and celebration. There is no commitment. Just show up when it works for you! Meetings will take place every other month. It will also be a time to recognize the outstanding work of our teachers and students. I hope to see you there!
- 3) The Amesbury High School Council is an elected group of parents, students, teachers, community members and administration. This group is mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Education. The meetings are open to the public; however, only the elected members may vote. The Council advises the principal on budget, program of studies, staffing and general school issues. They meet the second Thursday of the month. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, September 8th, at 5:30pm in the Principal's

- 4) You can volunteer your services. If you would like to volunteer your time in any capacity please contact our main office at 978-388-4800.

### **Back to School Student Supply List**

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At the August 30th Open House, teachers will share their individual supply lists with students and parents. Commonly requested items include pens, pencils, highlighters, notebooks, index cards, and binders with dividers.

### **School Lockers - Hallway and Gym**

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Students will be assigned a school locker. These lockers do not have locks. Students may purchase a school lock for \$5.00 and may keep the same lock for all four years of high school. All locks at the high school must be school locks due to security and safety concerns. I highly recommend that students lock all their belongings. I also encourage students to lock their belongings in our locker rooms while they are participating in physical education and after school sports. Unfortunately, we have had thefts in the past and in all cases students did not secure their valuables.

### **Dress Code**

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The objective of our dress code is that personal dress must meet “reasonable standards of health, safety, and cleanliness” and “is **appropriate for a place of work and study.**” While fashion is continually evolving, our dress code is not. Please follow the guidelines below with regards to your child’s dress code for school.

- No open backed clothing or clothing that exposes the midriff can be worn
- Articles of clothing, jewelry, etc. must not display insignias or designs such as those advertising alcohol, drugs or sexual material, or containing slurs regarding race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, or sexual orientation.
- Shoes/footwear must be worn at all times.
- Outdoor clothing is not to be worn in the building except in times of unusually low building temperature.
- Students are allowed to wear hats in the corridors and the lunchroom. Teachers have discretion to have students remove their hats or wear them in their classrooms.
- Hoods may not be worn in the school building at any time.
- Pants must be worn so that underwear is not exposed.

### **The First Day**

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The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 31st. Please note that students who take the bus will arrive at the high school between 7:15 and 7:25. Bus students will go directly to the cafeteria and remain there until 7:57. All students, grades 9-12, will report to advisory at 8:00am. This year, students will begin their first day by reporting to the room where their advisory groups meet. Advisory groups will now serve as homebases as well. Students will find advisory groups, advisors, and room locations posted in our main entrance. Advisory teachers will issue schedules, provide other documents, and review our student handbook. Students will be in advisory for approximately 40 minutes.



### **Guidance Counselor Availability**

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Our guidance counselors are available for new registrations on August 17th, and 18th. Please call 978-388-4800 if you need an appointment. Existing students should contact their counselors directly via email with any scheduling questions or concerns. Guidance counselors will contact students who have conflicts in their schedule.

### **Armed Forces Recruiting on Campus**

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The Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information Act (FOREPAW) states, "Schools must make student names, addresses and telephone numbers available to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. Parents and students may "opt out" of this requirement so that such information is not released without their prior consent. In order to "opt out" parents and students must present a written request to the principal of the school. The written request cannot be email; it must be signed and dated. Recent legislation by Congress and the President has given the military even more access to student records. Even if you decide to "opt out" from AHS providing records, your son or daughter may still be contacted by recruiters through other data bases. The above section is printed in our handbook, but has been missed by students and parents in previous years.

### **Publication of Student Photos and Work**

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Generally, before any student work is displayed, AHS attempts to obtain specific permission from the student. However, in this day and age of digital photography, pictures are being taken with many different pieces of equipment. AHS continues to honor student privacy, but there are times when a student may be photographed during an academic or co-curricular activity. The pictures may be published in the school newspaper, yearbook, power-point presentation, school website, or other media. Parents and students may "opt out" of having their picture printed by a written request to the principal of the school. The written request cannot be email; it must be signed and dated. If you decide to "opt out" from these publications we will make every effort to be sure that those printing the publications are aware of your request.

### **For Your Information (FYI)**

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\*The AHS Student Handbook and Program of Studies and much more may be accessed on our website at [schools.amesburyma.gov](http://schools.amesburyma.gov)

\*Please return all paperwork such as emergency cards, Free/Reduced Lunch forms and student data cards within the first week of school.

\*If any of your emergency numbers or contact people has changed, please remember to update them ASAP. Any changes during the year should be made right away.

\*Bus Schedules will be printed in the local paper and also on the Amesbury Public School Website ([schools.amesburyma.gov](http://schools.amesburyma.gov)). Any questions please call Salter Transportation at 978-462-6433 or Carol Bartlett at the Superintendent's Office 978-388-0507. Bus fees and bus passes will be handled through the AHS office.

\*AHS Weekly publishes every Friday and contains happenings at the high school. Subscriptions are available by calling Barbara Leary at 978-388-4800.

\*Grade 9 and New Student Tours -National Honor Society members will be conducting tours for freshmen and transfer students and their parents. On Thursday, August 18th between 9-11am and August 25th from 4-6pm. Drop in and visit AHS.

\*Community Service- All students may earn community service hours over the summer towards the graduation requirement of 75 hours. Students must earn a minimum of 10 hours each year plus 35 additional hours at any time. Forms may be printed from the school website and are available on the bulletin board. They must be signed by the supervising adult and be completed before leaving them in the folder on the Community Service bulletin board located across from the main office.

\*Amesbury Adult Ed- classes will start again in September. Please check the website in August for the new listings. ALL registrations must be completed before the first class by mail or drop off at Amesbury High School. Instructors will no longer be able to accept registrations.

\*Amesbury Lunch Program- Breakfast @ all schools - \$1.75, Elementary Lunch - \$2.75, Secondary Lunch - \$3.00. If you plan to pay by check please make payable to "Amesbury School Lunch".

***\* It is important for parents to understand that the school does not cover accidental injury incurred by a student during school activities. It is important for families to have proper coverage. Coverage is available through the school by an independent agency at a minimal cost. You can cover school day protection, additional 24/7 coverage, and or accidental dental. Information will be provided.***

**\* Amesbury Public Schools 2016-2017 School Year Calendar, PSAT/NMSQT information for all sophomores and juniors and Health Education letter are also included in this newsletter.**

## Dates to Remember

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Aug. 18	New Student Tours, 9-11am
Aug. 18	AHS Golf Team Fundraiser- Putt a Thon, Amesbury Country Club, 3pm
Aug. 19	Football Practice begins
Aug. 21-23	AHS Girls Soccer- Conditioning Camp, Cashman Soccer Field, 9-10am
Aug. 25	All other Fall sports practices begin
Aug. 25	New Student Tours, 4-6pm
Aug. 25	Movie in the Millyard, 8pm
Aug. 29	Senior celebration 5:00 – 8:00pm, Patio
Aug. 30	Back to School Open House, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Aug. 30	Class of 2018- Water Bottle Fundraiser, Lobby, 6:30-8:30pm
Aug. 30	Activities Fair, 6-7pm, Cafe
Aug. 31	Student's First Day
Sept. 2	No School
Sept. 5	Holiday- No School
Sept. 6	E-Board Meeting, SAR, 7-9pm
Sept. 8	School Council Mtg, 5:30pm, Principal Conference Room
Sept. 9	AHS Faculty Favorites- Assessment and Discussion
Sept. 9	Welcome Back Dance, 7-10pm, Cafe
Sept. 12	Class of 2017- Senior Class Photo, 10am
Sept. 13	Class of 2017- Cap and Gown Measurement, SAR, 11-1pm
Sept. 13	Class of 2019 - Class Meeting, 2-2:30pm, Cafe
Sept. 13	E-Board Meeting, SAR, 7-9pm
Sept. 14	Mini College Fair, Lobby, 1:30-2:15pm
Sept. 14	Student Council Mtg, Cafe, 7-9pm
Sept. 15	Principal's Coffee, 6:00pm
Sept. 15	Class of 2019- Parent/Student ring order night, 5-7pm, cafe
Sept. 16	Class of 2019- In School Ring Orders during lunches, cafe
Sept. 19	Mu Alpha Theta Mtg, Classroom 129/131, 2:30-3pm
Sept. 20	E-Board Mtg, SAR, 7-9pm
Sept. 21	Mini College Fair, Lobby, 1:30-2:15pm
Sept. 26	Financial Aid Night- Grade 12, 7-8:30pm, Auditorium
Sept. 28	Mini College Fair, Lobby, 1:30-2:15pm
Sept. 28	Student Council Mtg, Cafe, 7-9pm
Sept.30	Fall Sports Rally, Gym, 12:30-2:30pm
Oct. 1	Community Event - Fireball Run Adventurally 2016, Downtown event
Oct. 4	E-Board Mtg, SAR, 7-9pm
Oct. 5	Professional Release Time Day, 12:30pm dismissal
Oct. 5	Math Meet @ Masconomet, 4pm
Oct. 6-7	Photo Day for Grade 9-11, Room 140, 8:30am
Oct. 7	Senior Photo Day, Superlative, siblings, etc, 8-2:30pm
Oct. 10	Holiday- No School
Oct. 11	E-Board Mtg., SAR, 7-9pm
Oct. 12	Mini College Fair, Lobby, 1:30-2:15pm
Oct. 12	Student Council Mtg, Cafe, 7-9pm
Oct. 13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Open House, 6:30-8:30pm
Oct. 15	PSAT, 7-12 noon
Oct. 17	Mu Alpha Theta Mtg, 2:30-3pm, Room 129/131



Oct. 19	Mini College Fair, Lobby, 1:30-2:15pm
Oct. 25	E-Board Mtg, SAR, 7-9pm
Oct. 26	Mini College Fair, Lobby, 1:30-2:15pm
Oct. 26	Student Council Mtg, Cafe, 7-9pm
Oct. 28	Halloween Rally, Gym, 12:30-2:30pm



# AMESBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



August 2016							September 2016							October 2016						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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	15	16	17	18	19			12	13	14	15	16			17	18	19	20	21	
*	22	TI	TI	TI	26			19	20	21	22	23			24	25	26	27	28	
	T	PD	ST					26	27	28	29	30			31					
November 2016							December 2016							January 2017						
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	7	PD*	9	10	H			5	6	7	8	9			9	10	PRT	12	13	
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	28	29	30					V	V	V	V	V			30	31				
February 2017							March 2017							April 2017						
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			PRT	2	3			6	7	PRT	9	10			3	4	PRT	6	7	
	6	7	8	9	10			13	14	15	16	17			10	11	12	13	H	
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	H	V	V	V	V			27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	
	27	28																		
May 2017							June 2017													
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	15	16	17	18	19			12	13	14	15	PD								
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	H	30	31					26	27	28	29	30								

INDICATES NO SCHOOL

STUDENT YEAR: 181

SCHOOL STARTS: 8/31/16

SCHOOL ENDS: 6/15/17 (181<sup>ST</sup> DAY)

S.C. Approved: 3/7/16\* (calendar updated)

### CALENDAR CODES:

V – School Vacation

TI – New Teacher Induction Days (No School)

H – Holiday (No School)

ER – Early Release Day (See Release Times)

PD – Prof. Dev. (No School)

PRT – Professional Release Time Day (See Release Times)

ST – Student's First Day

T – Teachers/Staff Only (No School)

M – No School Make-up Days

June 16 is scheduled as a professional development day for teachers, per contract. If make up days are needed, this PD day will be extended accordingly.

### SCHOOL HOURS:

7:30-2:30

7:40-2:25

8:30-3:00

High School

Middle School

Elementary

### DISMISSAL TIMES

ER

PRT

10:50

12:30

10:50

12:30

11:30

1:00

### No School Announcements:

Connect-Ed, WBZ, WCBV, WHDH, and/or Fox 25

\*Election Days: 9/8/16 – School is Open- voting in AHS gym  
11/8/16 – School is closed – voting AHS cafe

Disclaimer: In the case of excessive snow days or other reasons to close school, the Superintendent may use the Good Friday no school day as a school day and/or declare school on a Saturday.

**TO: ALL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS**

**FM: MR. DODIER**

**RE: PSAT TEST**

The **PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)** will be given on **Saturday, October 15, 2016** at Amesbury High School. Students may register in the Guidance Center starting on **Tuesday, September 6, 2016** by bringing in a check for **\$27.00** made payable to **Amesbury High School**. All college preparatory juniors and sophomores may take this test. All sophomores should consider taking this test to prepare them for the SAT. All juniors considering further schooling are encouraged to take the test. Others who wish to take the test are welcome and scores will not be released to anyone unless the student wishes this to be the case.

The PSAT/NMSQT has a dual purpose. First it is a practice run for the SAT. Second, it is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test when taken in the junior year. Students who score in the top 2% nationally become eligible for special scholarships and are honored with certificates, which enhance their chances of being accepted to prestigious colleges. It is recommended that all college-bound juniors and academically strong sophomores take this test. The PSAT has two 25-minute critical reading sections, two 25-minute math sections and one 30-minute writing section. It is recommended that students bring a calculator to the exam.

Students with documented disabilities should contact Ms. Saurman immediately for special administration.

**ELIZABETH MCANDREWS**  
PRINCIPAL



**DANIELLE RICCI**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF STUDENTS/CURRICULUM

**GLEN GEARIN**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF STUDENTS/ACTIVITIES

5 Highland Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913  
Telephone: (978) 388-4800  
Fax (978) 388-3393

**August 2016**

**Dear parents and guardians,**

Health Education is mandatory for public schools in Massachusetts and includes a curriculum framework, created as part of the state's School Reform agenda, to guide implementation. The Amesbury High School offers mandatory Health Education in grade 10. In addition, a Child Development course is a graduation requirement for juniors and seniors. Classes are by quarter at the high school. Therefore, your child may not be in Health until later on in the year.

The high school curriculum includes units on human sexuality. The focus is personal responsibility, decision-making and consequences. The grade 10 course addresses adolescent sexuality issues including pregnancy prevention, teen parenting, sexually transmitted diseases and health care of the reproductive systems. The Child Development course includes conception and development of a fetus through birth. Infant and child care are also included.

Massachusetts State Law (MGL Chapter 71, Section 32A), affords parents the flexibility to exempt their children from the sexuality unit or any portion of the unit. Your child will not be penalized for such exemption. Alternative lessons and assessments will be devised for any exempted child.

To exempt your child you must send written notification to the principal of the high school.

MGL Chap. 71 also requires that to the extent practicable, program instruction materials for the sexuality units shall be "reasonably accessible" to parents and guardians for review. The Health education teachers are available to meet with you and / or answer any questions that you may have. Also, I can be reached at Amesbury High School to discuss any aspect of the program. We are proud of the high quality, comprehensive health education that has been offered to students for nearly 20 years. We look forward to working with you to help keep our children safe and healthy.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth McAndrews  
Principal